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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, thank You for the promise of this new day, a gift from Your bounty. We praise You for opportunities to solve problems that keep so many people in life's margins. Please make Your presence felt today on Capitol Hill.

May the whisper of Your wisdom fill our Senators with peace, power, and praise. Infuse them with confidence in Your providence, and in the ultimate triumph of Your purposes. Empower them to see their challenges from Heaven's perspective, and to rejoice that no weapon formed against them will prosper. Give each lawmaker a heightened sense of the special role You have for him or her to play in Your unfolding drama of human history.

We pray in Your righteous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 18, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARDIN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning, following any time used by Senator MCCONNELL and me, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for an hour, with Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the second half.

After this period of morning business, the Senate will proceed to H.R. 1124, the DC College Access bill. The bill will be considered under a very short time agreement. Members should expect a rollcall vote around noon or maybe even before that. Upon disposition of the DC College Access bill, the Senate will recess for the regular party meetings.

This afternoon, when the Senate resumes at 2:15, there will be 15 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the underlying bill, the DC Voting Rights bill. Of course, if cloture is invoked, the Senate will remain on the motion. If cloture fails, the Senate will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization measure.

Mr. President, I would also say with respect to the schedule we have this week, we have a lot of work to do, but

the most religious, the most important holiday of the year for those of the Jewish faith, begins this Friday at sundown. Yom Kippur is the holiest of days for Jews all around the world, and there are a number of the Jewish faith who need to be on the west coast by sundown on Friday. Therefore, we will probably not have any votes after about 10:30 or quarter to 11 on Friday. We have a lot of work to do, but this is something that is important and necessary that we do.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Senator BYRD is necessarily absent from the Senate today until approximately 6 p.m. because he is accepting an honorary degree for his late wife Erma at Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling, WV.

DC VOTING RIGHTS AND COLLEGE ACCESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, let me also say this about the remarks I am about to give. This has no negative reflection on my distinguished colleague, the Senator from Kentucky. He and I disagree on a number of issues. We have had longstanding debates here on the Senate floor about how he feels about campaign finance reform. He approaches this on an intellectual basis. I think I am right; he thinks he is right. But it doesn't take away from my respect for his having the right to have an opinion here in the Senate about the issue of campaign finance. The same, I think, on the issue of flag burning, for example. He will disagree with me on the DC Voting Rights bill. That is his privilege. He does it on an intellectual basis, a conclusion that he has reached. So my remarks have nothing to do, in any way, with an intention to denigrate my friend's feelings about this bill.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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